

Children's Corner.

For the Child's Corner.
REMINISCENCES OF NEW YORK AND
BROOKLYN.

(Continued.)
A few evenings since I was reading Wash-
ington Irving's sketch of the early Dutch inhabi-
tants of New York. And although it presents a
picture of a period much earlier than my friend's
visit in 1799, it is so amusing that I condense a
part of his description. Our young friends must
remember that although the picture is truthful,
yet it is considerably exaggerated, and written for
the amusement, rather than the instruction of
readers.

"Imagination presents the Dutch burghers, like
so many persevering beavers, slowly and surely
pursuing their labors—the rude log hut trans-
formed into the stately mansion with brick front,
glazed windows and tiled roof, and from the last-
mentioned to the luxurious cabbage garden. In
which the burghers, like the beavers, were busied
upon every plan of building, took it under their
particular charge, and as they went to and from
pasture, established paths through the bushes, on
each side of which the good folks built their
cabins, which in the rambling and picturesque
turns and labyrinthine streets distinguish
certain streets of New York at this very day.

In those good days of simplicity and order, the
front door was never opened except on marriages,
funerals, New Year's day, and other great oc-
casions. It was ornamented with a gorgeous brass
knocker curiously wrought, and was daily bur-
nished with such zeal, that it was oftentimes worn
out by the very means taken for its preservation.
The parlor was the sanctum sanctorum where the
passion for cleanliness was indulged without con-
trol. In this sacred apartment, the mistress alone
with her confidential maid was privileged to en-
ter. This they did, once a week, for the purpose
of putting things to rights. Then the floor was
scrubbed and sprinkled with white sand, which
was curiously stroked into angles, and curves,
and rhomboids. After washing the windows,
rubbing and polishing the furniture, and putting
a new bunch of evergreen in the fire place, the
window shutters were closed to keep out the
flies, and the room shut up until the revolution of
time brought round the weekly cleaning day.
(To be continued.)

INSECT POWER.

DR. CHAMBERS, in one of his astronomical dis-
courses, alludes to the microscope, as demonstrat-
ing Divine Wisdom in the lower walks of creation
as conclusively as the telescope unfolds it in the
wonders of the heavens.

The muscular strength of insects is immense.—
We were once surprised by a feat performed by a
common beetle. We had put the insect, for want
of any box at hand, beneath a quart bottle full
of milk upon a table, the hollow at the bottom al-
lowing him room to stand upright. Presently, to
our surprise, the beetle began slowly to move and
glide along the smooth table, propelled by the
muscular power of the imprisoned insect, and
continued for some time to perambulate the sur-
face, to the astonishment of all who witnessed it.
The weight of the bottle and its contents could
not have been less than three pounds and a half;
while that of the beetle was about half an ounce,
so that it readily moved a weight 11½ times ex-
ceeding its own.

Other instances of insect power are equally re-
markable. Having once fastened an elegantly-
formed ground beetle, weighing about a half-
grain, by a silk thread to a piece of paper, and
placed it upon a glass plate, I was surprised to find
that, under its load, the insect was able to drag after
it, upon an inclined plane of twenty-five degrees,
nearly eighty-five grains; but, when placed on a
plane of five degrees inclination, it drew after it
one pound and twenty-five grains, exclusive of
the friction to be overcome in moving its load;
so that a man were to drag up a hill of similar
inclination a wagon weighing two tons and a half,
having first taken the wheels off.—Exchange.

The trombone was found among the musical
instruments of the ancients, but it was then called
a sackbut. It was revived in 1790, after a model
found at Pompeii.

Poetry.

THE BEST SEWING MACHINE.

Got one? Don't say, say! Which did you get?
One of the kind to open and shut?
Own it, or hire it? How much did you pay?
Does it go with a crank or a treadle? So say.
I'm a single man, and somewhat green,
Tell me about your sewing machine.

Listen, my boy, and hear all about it—
I don't know what I could do without it;
I've owned one now for more than a year,
And like it so well that I call it "my dear."
'Tis the cleverest thing that ever was seen—
This wonderful family sewing machine.

It's none of your angular Wheeler things,
With steel shod back and cast iron wings;
It's work would better a hundred of his,
And worth a thousand—indeed it is;
And has a way, you need not stare—
Of combing and braiding its own black hair!

Mine is not one of those stupid affairs
That stands in a corner with what-nots and chairs,
And makes that dismal, headachy noise;
Which all the comfort of sewing destroys;
No rigid contrivance of lumber and steel,
But one with a natural spring in the heel.

Mine is one of the kind to love;
And wears a shawl and a soft kid glove;
Has the merriest eyes and the daintiest foot,
And sports the charmingest gaiter boot;
And a bonnet with feathers, and ribbons, and loops,
And with an indefinite number of hoops.

None of your patent machines for me,
Unless Dame Nature is the patentee;
I like the sort that can laugh and talk,
And take my arm for an evening walk;
That will do whatever the owner may choose,
With the slightest perceptible turn of the screws!

One that can dance, and, possibly, flirt;
And make a pudding as well as a shirt—
One that can sing without dropping a stitch;
And play the housewife, lady, or witch;
Ready to give the sagest advice,
Or to do up your collars and things so nice.

What do you think of my machine?
Ain't it the best that ever was seen?
'Tisn't a clumsy mechanical toy,
But flesh and blood! Hear that, my boy!
With a turn for gossip and household affairs,
Which include, you know, the sewing of tears.

Tut, tut, don't talk; I see it all;
You needn't keep seeing so hard at the wall;
I know what your fidgety fumbings mean;
You would like, yourself, a sewing machine.
Well, get one, then, of the same design;
There were plenty left when I got mine.

LOVE.

All thoughts, all passions, all delights,
Whatever stirs this mortal frame,
Are but ministers of love,
And feed his sacred flame.

Selected Tale.

THE WALBRIDGE FAMILY. A LOCAL THANKSGIVING STORY.

BY MRS. CAROLINE ORNE.

CHAPTER I.

The last Thursday in November had
been set apart by the Governor of Rhode
Island, for the celebration of Thanksgiv-
ing. The Long Indian summer, with its
golden haze floating in the air, and ting-
ling the purple mantle of the distant hills,
had ripened and mellowed the fruits of the
earth to a degree of unusual perfection.—
The mild, balmy weather had, however,
given place to a hard frost. Those accus-
tomed to mark with care the atmospheric
changes, prognosticated a snow storm, and
as it was stated in the almanac that "snow
would fall," the retired and peace-
country town of Smithfield confidently an-
ticipated that sleighing would be added to
the other enjoyments of the time-honored
festival.

Preparations for its celebration were
commenced early in the morning on the
Monday preceding, and baskets of rosy
cheeked apples and snowy eggs, the lumps
of fresh butter and delicious cream, and
above all, the large golden round pumpkins,
displayed on the dressers and tables of the
farm houses, constituted a delightful pre-
monition—to the juveniles, in an especial
manner—of the nature of the feast, which
might be expected in the articles of cakes
and pastry, before which in their estima-
tion, the turkey, chicken, sardine of beef
and the never-to be omitted boiled dish,
dwindled into comparative insignificance.

But among all the kitchens of the comfort-
able farm houses of Smithfield, none ex-
hibited so abundant an array of edibles,
and of such excellent quality, as the one
where the wife and daughters of Esquire
Walbridge were preparing for the festival.
Esquire Walbridge was the richest farmer
in the place, and an example of the dig-
nity of labor was truly exhibited in himself
and his wife and daughters. They had no
idea of its being ungentle, or beneath
them in any respect, to minister to their
own necessities, and those of the family;
yet they had their own ideas of exclusiv-
ness and though either of the daughters
would have accepted a free holder for a
husband, who was obliged to toil early
and late, or the son of a farmer, who had
nothing in his own right, if he remained
at home and worked on his father's farm,
a young man who was obliged to hire out
by the month or year would have been
considered as filling an inferior station in
society, and, consequently, beneath what
they had a right to expect in forming a
matrimonial alliance.

Mark Thornton was what, in common
language, is called a "good looking young
man." He would, therefore, though one
of the best educated, the most intelli-
gent and finest looking young man in the
town—have been thought arrogant and
presuming, had it been suspected that he
aspired to the hand of one of his employ-
er's daughters. Yet it was a piece of ar-
rogance which he did venture to indulge in
his secret heart; and though he loved his
daughters, Anne and Ella—the last be-
ing still a child, Rebecca, the second
daughter, was the one who had awakened
the admiration of Mark Thornton. At
first, he being only the hired man, he
looked on him with some disdain; but his
handsome face, superior intelligence and
manly, independent demeanor, were not
without their influence and she soon, with-
out exactly being conscious of it, began to
reciprocate the sentiments with which he
regarded her. Not a single member of the
family suspected anything of the kind.—
Had Esquire Walbridge himself done so,
he would not have hired him one single day
after the expiration of the time for which
he had hired him. Mark for the present
had no mind he should know it. He pre-
ferred having the privilege of living under
the same roof with the beautiful Rebecca,
and was willing to bide his time; for he felt
that the season was not far distant when
he would ask for her hand without danger
of being repulsed.

"Let me see," said Mrs. Walbridge, as
she stood at the table paring the rind from
the long, curved slices of pumpkin, which
Rebecca was cutting from an uncommonly
fine specimen of the indispensable edible.
"Let me see, how many we shall have to
dinner Thanksgiving day. There will be
John and his wife and their little Jenny, your
Aunt Hannah West and Uncle Daniel
Walbridge. Then, if the day is pleasant,
grandfather and grandmother Walbridge
will come."

"Which will make twelve," said Rebe-
ca. "And then you know we always ask
the widow Page and her daughter."
"It will be no more than common
politeness to invite the schoolmaster," said
Jane.

"It would be well enough to invite him,
as he is a stranger in the place," said Mrs.
Walbridge. "What is his name?"
"Bateman," replied Jane.

"I shouldn't wonder, said her mother,
if he was a son of old Major Bateman. I
was well acquainted with the major when
I was a girl. He was as smart and enter-
prising a young man, as any you'll see in a
thousand. His father gave him a lot of
land when he was twenty-one, and he went
right to work and cleared a dozen acres of
it—half of which he sowed to rye and
planted the other half to corn. In the fall
he took five hundred dollars in cash for what
he raised, which gave him a start in the
world and encouraged him to go on as he
had begun. Now, you see if he had done
as Mark Thornton has, hired out by the
month or year, it would have taken him a
long time to earn what he did in a single
year."

"You know that Mark had no rich father
to give him a lot of land," said Rebecca.
"That is true; but I don't believe if he
had, that he would have been enterprising
enough to have cleared it. Mark is a civil,
industrious young man, but he has not
got enterprise enough to suit me. I'll tell

what I have been thinking of."

"What is it, mother?" said Ann.
"I've been thinking, that Mark and
Polly Shores, Mrs. Dresser's hired girl,
would make a good match."

"Why, mother," said Rebecca, "Polly
Shores is at least five years older than
Mark, and is just as plain as sea-bream."
Besides, her education is very poor. She
can read and write and that is all."

"Well, she is a good working girl as
ever I was, and according to my mind
would make Mark a good wife."

"Why, Mark has as good an education
as any young man in the place," said Re-
becca, "and is better qualified to teach the
school than Mr. Bateman. Brother John,
who is one of the examining committee,
says so."

"You had better mind, Rebecca," said
Ann, "or we shall begin to think that you
are in love with the hired girl, and that
you are bent on making her your wife."
"No, no," said Rebecca, "I am not in
love with her, and I am not bent on mak-
ing her my wife. I am only thinking of
her as a good match for Mark."

"Come I guess we shan't reckon up
how many we are going to have to dine
Thanksgiving day, at this rate," said Jane.
"I guess so, too," said Mrs. Walbridge.
"We had got up to fifteen," said Ann,
"including the Widow Page and her daugh-
ter, and the schoolmaster."

"Which with our own family, will make
twenty three," said Mrs. Walbridge.—
"And then we must expect your Uncle
David and his family from Woonsocket,
which will make the number up to thirty."
Well, if there should be fifty, we shall
have enough and to spare. Here comes
Mark with another pumpkin. I am glad
he has brought it, for the kettles will hold
another just as well as not."

"I've just seen Sydney Phillips," said
Mark, as he placed the pumpkin on the
table. "Here Rebecca, let me cut it in
half for you—I'm stronger in the hand
than you are."

"Ann, did you hear what Mark said
about Sydney Phillips?" said Jane.
"I rather think she did, by her blushing
so," remarked Rebecca.

"I thought he was teaching school some-
where this vacation," said Mrs. Walbridge.
"So he is," replied Mark, "but he thought
he would spend Thanksgiving week at
home."

"Sydney is almost through college, isn't
he," Mark inquired Mrs. Walbridge.
"He has only one more year to stay, and
then intends coming home and studying
divinity with his father."

"So I may have a minister for a brother-
in-law," said Jane.
"And I may have a merchant for one,"
said Ann.

It was now Jane's turn to blush, there
having been some "love-passages" between
her and a young merchant of Providence,
who had been in the place some years, and
who had just finished cutting the pumpkin.

"No, no, to-day," said Mrs. Walbridge.
"All we calculate on doing to-day is to stew
and sift the pumpkin, prepare the minced
meat for the pies, and such kind of chores.
To-morrow morning, we shall begin to bake
bread and early."

"And want you bake me a pie-crust
bird?" said little Ella, who, with her brother
Charles, had just come in from the barn,
where they had been hunting hen's nest.
"And me a pie-crust horse?" said Char-
ley.

"I declare, I am afraid Charley, if he
lives, will be a horse-jockey, if he
Walbridge. His mind is always running
on horses."

"So was mine, when I was of his age,"
said Esquire Walbridge, who, at this mo-
ment, entered the kitchen. "And to con-
fess the truth, I've always had a liking for
a good horse. I talk of riding over to
Woonsocket, mother. Don't you want to
send for some little kick knacks for Thank-
sgiving?"

"Well, I don't know—we are pretty well
provided for, I believe, but you may get a
few nutmegs and cloves, if you have a mind
to, at Mr. Faxon's, Globe side."

"We ought to have a dozen pounds of
raisins," said Jane. "Those we have in
the house ain't first rate."

"Is that all?" said the Esquire. "Why,
I expected you would want a whole wagon
load of one thing and another."

"La, we can't eat everything," said Mrs.
Walbridge. "Our store room is full of
flour, rice, sugar, coffee and tea, and yet
nothing of such articles as are raised on the
farm."

"I am glad we are so well provided for,"
said he, "and it reminds me of those who
are not so well off. Hadn't I better take
along some articles in my wagon, to help
a few poor families to keep Thanksgiving?"

"Yes, you had certainly. I am glad you
thought of it. Wait a few minutes, and I
will put up a lot of flour and sugar and
other necessities for Mr. Green's family
and a few others. He has been sick all
the fall, and finds it hard getting along."

"If I see anybody while I am gone that
I take a fancy to invite to dine with us
Thanksgiving day, I shall, said he, taking
up a basket she had been parking in one
hand, and a pretty large bag of flour in the
other.

"Do do," said his wife, "for the girls and
I have been reckoning up how many we ex-
pect, and if they all come, there will only
be thirty, including our own family."

"That ain't enough for people that have
as much house room as we have. I'll try
and hunt up a few more," said the Esquire.
"Perhaps," said Mrs. Walbridge, "Syd-
ney Phillips would come, if you invite him.
He is at home, Mark says."

"O, he was dressed up as grand as could
be."

"Did he look as well as Sydney?" asked
Rebecca.

"Yes, I guess he did. His eyes were as
black and bright as our Mark."

"Well, said Esquire Walbridge, 'if they
have a visitor, he must be included in the
invitation.'

"To be sure he must," was the reply of
his wife.

CHAPTER II.
"It begins to snow—it begins to snow!"
exclaimed Charley, as he came into the
back door, with a basket of chips in his
hand, Wednesday morning; and he fairly
danced for joy—an exercise in which little
Ella joined with a hearty good will.

A few large flakes of snow had, indeed,
begun to fall, which gradually growing
smaller and thicker, promised to fulfil the
prophecy of those who had foretold a snow
storm. "A short snow storm, said the
weatherman, 'should it prove to be a long
one—ah, there was the rub!'"

The snow continued to fall during the
day, and many a pair of bright eyes looked
forth into the murky air the last thing be-
fore retiring for the night; while Charley
Walbridge went to bed with a full deter-
mination to rise every half hour, to watch
the progress of the storm, having solemnly
promised Ella—the door of her bed-room
being left ajar for the purpose—that he
would, each time, inform her of the result
of his observation. Unfortunately, he had
but one nap, and that lasted till after sun-
rise the following morning.

"The storm is over, Ella," said he, hav-
ing dressed himself in great haste.
"Over so soon?" said she, rubbing her
eyes. "Why, it isn't half an hour yet,
since we went to bed—is it?"

"Only think of the sound sleep of child-
hood," said Mrs. Walbridge, who had over-
heard what was said by the children.
"Yes," replied her husband, "but labor
will produce sound sleep too, as I have
proved during a life of fifty years. Well,
girls," said he, to his three eldest daugh-
ters, who now made their appearance,
"the double sleigh and span of grays will
have to be brought into service to-day! I
guess there are six inches of good solid
snow, and as smooth as the house floor."

The religious services were to be com-
menced at eleven and it must be confessed
that the girls felt no little pleasure in hav-
ing so good an opportunity to display their
winter bonnets and other such tasteful
paraphernalia as had been prepared for the
occasion. There was a fine show of waving
plumes and fluttering ribbons, and the faces
that looked out from the tasteful bonnets
were fresh and fair as June roses sparkling
with dew. Even Mrs. Walbridge did not
form an exception. At forty-five, brought
cheerful, curled according to the ap-
proved fashion of earlier days, formed a
marked contrast to the countenance lit up
by the light of youth.

When the double sleigh, drawn by the
spirited horses—which sported their long
strands of silver-tinted bells, as proudly as
a lady would her diamond necklace—dashed
up to the church door, Sydney Phillips,
and a young man who was a stranger,
stood in the porch. He was a fellow stu-
dent, by name, Robert Vinton, and the
same who had accompanied him home.

"By the red lip of Hebe, that is a fine
looking girl, Sydney," said he, as Rebecca
Walbridge sprang lightly from the sleigh.
"Yes, they are all three of them fine
looking girls," was Sydney's reply, as he
sought to catch the eye of Ann.

Esquire Walbridge, who now entered the
porch, shook hands very cordially with his
young friend Sydney who introduced Vin-
ton to him. "The Esquire took the op-
portunity to invite them to dine at his house,
which invitation was gladly accepted."

Mark Thornton, who stood near, with-
out being able to assign a reason satisfac-
tory to himself, did not feel pleased with
young Vinton's appearance. He was cer-
tainly what most people would call hand-
some; his eyes, in a particular man-
ner, were very bright—brighter than Mark's
—but at times they shot forth a fiery,
gleaming light, very different from the clear
lustrous beams which gave life and anima-
tion to the bronzed countenance of Thor-
nton.

The widow Page, who with her daugh-
ter, had according to arrangement, received
an early invitation to dine at the Esquire's,
came at 9 o'clock in the morning, so that
neither Mrs. Walbridge nor one of her
daughters, would be obliged to stay at
home to prepare dinner. When, there-
fore, the family returned, accompanied by
their two married sons and their families
and the pastor and his wife, together with
Sydney and young Vinton, everything was
ready to put on the table. The parents
of Esquire Walbridge, also Uncle David
and his family from Woonsocket, had al-
ready arrived, much to the delight of the
Walbridges, who were afraid they would
not come.

Dinner was soon announced, and while
Mr. Phillips, a gentleman with a mild and
benign countenance, said grace, each one
present stood with reverent air and down-
cast eyes. The blessing was rather long,
at least so thought those whose appetites
were peculiarly keen, but all agreed that it
was very good and very appropriate. It
is true that, under different circumstances,
it might have passed for a prayer, and been
thought rather long; at that; but the good
pastor, in the benevolence of his heart, could
not think of passing over any one present
without a kindly mention and he was
prompted by similar benevolent emotions,
to remember the poor and destitute of his
own country, and the perishing heathen of
distant lands.

When ample justice had been done to
the feast of good things set before them,
the younger portion of the company were
soon assembled round a good fire in a large
room by themselves, leaving their seniors
in possession of the parlor to discuss themes

of grave and weighty import, among which
politics bore a prominent part. Mark
Thornton mingled with the young people
on terms of perfect equality. Even Es-
quire Walbridge and his wife did not con-
sider it amiss for him to be admitted to
the social circle of which their daughters
formed a part, but for him to marry one of
them was not to be thought of.

Young Vinton began, at once, to be
most assiduous in his attentions to the beau-
tiful Rebecca. Judging from the manner
with which she received them however, she
did not imagine he was conferring on her
any particular honor, instead of this she evi-
dently felt annoyed by them. Mark Thor-
nton watched him closely, and it must be
confessed, with a slight feeling of jealousy.
Not that he distrusted Rebecca, but be-
cause he felt that Vinton was not worthy to
be admitted to her companionship for an
hour. Vinton, when he saw how closely
Mark watched him, felt vexed and irritated,
and in a voice loud enough to be heard by
all present, asked Sydney Phillips who that
clown was, who was admitted into the so-
ciety of ladies and gentlemen. Sydney
reddened with shame at this rudeness of one
he had introduced as his friend, and re-
plied in a low voice:—

"We have no clowns in Smithfield," said
he. "With us, a titter of the soil is ac-
counted honorable."

"Honorable or dishonorable," said Vin-
ton, "I shall not associate on terms of
equality with that fellow."

Mark Thornton heard the remark, but
would not disturb the company by appear-
ing to notice it. Vinton found he had
gone too far, and had seen the look of
disdain which Rebecca Walbridge cast up-
on him, his vanity would not have been
greatly flattered. But she, as well as the
rest, seemed determined to forget Vinton's
rudeness. Everything, to appearance, went
on pleasantly, except that Vinton persisted
in being obtrusively attentive to Rebecca.

CHAPTER III.
After the company had gone, and Rebe-
ca Walbridge had retired to her own room,
she missed a small, plain gold locket. It
was one that Mark had given her, and the
only present he ever made her. As, at the
same time, he presented some trifles to each
of the sisters, the family did not consider
a love token. Neither did she, at that time,
think of it in that light; but later she had
been caused for her to suspect that the
presents to her sisters had been made to
prevent her from refusing the locket.—
Though at that time, she would have
thought him too presuming, since then, her
appreciation of his character and with it,
her feelings with regard to him in every
respect, had undergone a great change.—
This little ornament, then, though of not
much intrinsic value, was held in a higher
estimation than those handsomer and cost-
lier, and when she found that it was gone,
the prospect of its recovery was all that con-
soled her. "I may have a little claim to it, either—
though quite as much, I should imagine, as
he who presumes to surreptitiously possess
himself of an ornament belonging to a lady,
and the locket I am determined to have."

"Upon my word," said Vinton, "you are
exceedingly accommodating, and excess-
ively impudent. In the first place, you
will please make it appear, that I took the
locket; in the next, that the lady wishes
me to return it."

"As she asserts that she never gave it
to you, the presumption is strong that you
took it, and that without leave. She also
asserts that it is her wish that it be re-
turned."

"And has, I suppose, commissioned you
to be her Mercury. Upon my word, she
shows both taste and discretion in select-
ing a person, who is capable of managing
an affair of the kind with so much delicacy
and discretion. I may have a little claim to it, either—
though quite as much, I should imagine, as
he who presumes to surreptitiously possess
himself of an ornament belonging to a lady,
and the locket I am determined to have."

"You are!"
"I am. If you refuse to surrender it,
the whole transaction shall be made pub-
lic, which will, I apprehend, be little to
your credit."

"Make it public if you please. I am not
to be frightened into giving it up."

"Very well," said Mark, turning on his
heel.
"Stay—take the locket," said Vinton, as
he handed Mark the locket, and began to
feel alarmed at his determined manner.

It was the third anniversary from the
Thanksgiving of which mention has been
made in the preceding chapters. The usual
preparation for its celebration had been
made by the good people of Smithfield, but
none equalled those which had been ac-
complished by the aid and under the su-
perintendence of the mistress of a beautiful
house, situated about half a mile from the
residence of Esquire Walbridge. It was
Mark Thornton's, who, in virtue of having
been appointed justice of the peace, had
now the prefix of Esquire to his name.

There were probably, no persons in
Smithfield so much surprised as Esquire
Walbridge and his wife when they found
that Mark, their hired man, was able to
purchase a fifty acre farm and build there-
on a handsome and commodious house,
together with a barn and other suitable build-
ings.

"How he has contrived to gather so
much together and hire out by the month
or year all the time, is a mystery to me,"
was the remark of Mrs. Walbridge.

But there was in truth no mystery about
it. Ever after he was sixteen, Mark
Thornton was obliged to look out for him-
self. He at once commanded a man's wages,
and although he afforded himself the means
to acquire a good education, and always
dressed quite as well, or rather better than
the young men of his age and class, there
was not a year that he did not save a hun-
dred dollars or more, which he could al-
ways safely invest. Thus when he was
twenty-eight years old, he ventured to ask
Esquire Walbridge for the hand of his
daughter, and was not denied.

As has already been mentioned, it was
Thanksgiving day, and the Walbridge fam-
ily, also Mr. and Mrs. Phillips and Sydney,
were going to dine at Esquire Thornton's.
After dinner they were all to proceed to
the family mansion, where in the evening
there was to be a wedding. Mr. Danbury
the young Providence merchant, and the
fair Jane Walbridge, were the couple who
were going to be married. A large num-
ber of guests, most of them being relations,
were invited to witness the ceremony.

In less than ten years after Mark Thor-
nton was married to the lovely Rebecca, he
was the wealthiest and most influential citi-
zen of Smithfield. He was, at the age of
forty, appointed judge, and what may seem
somewhat singular, was called upon in that
capacity to pronounce sentence upon a cul-
prit for petty larceny, whose bloated coun-
tenance, the result of intemperance, would
have prevented him from recognizing him,
had he not been told that his name was
Robert Vinton.

spoken to each other. At last, one evening
he entered the kitchen where she was en-
gaged in the performance of some house-
hold duty, no other person being present.

"Rebecca," said he, "I am glad to find
you alone, for I have something I wish to
say to you."

"What is it?"
"I wish

INDIVIDUAL comfort is the great object of political institutions and of submission to governments. This object has been attained to a greater degree, and compared with the whole people for a greater number, in this country, than in any other at any period in the history of nations, ancient or modern. The consequence should be not only greater happiness, but also an exemption from those artificial troubles, which may make this country the most wretched example of causeless folly and misery that the world has ever produced. The union or the disunion of these States, without the virtue and intelligence necessary to secure individual comfort, will bring all our institutions down to the level (if not below it) of those countries where government absorbs every other interest—converting all the possible exertions of the people to its power, and demanding implicit confidence in all the purposes for which its power may be used. A decent to that level would soon be felt throughout this land in the loss of comfort, making the most favored as they would then be less happy than the least favored now are, their present servitude notwithstanding; because that servile condition is more comfortable than falls to the lot of the mass of subjects under governments of inherent power, almost everywhere existing in Europe.

The history of Italy, from the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle to the present time, would be a most instructive chapter to the discontented and rebellious spirits in our confederation of republics. In that history may be seen the miserable condition to which a nation must be brought for want of national unity and liberal political institutions. The best interests of the Italian people have been trampled upon, by foreign influence, as well as by foreign arms; that people have been exposed, in consequence of their divided condition, to all the physical suffering incident to the anarchy which even these United States may be now evidently threatened. Like the rest of Europe, the Italians have long been as sheep without a shepherd. When amelioration or reaction has come, it has come from without; the common mind of the inhabitants has never prevailed over external control, by whatever means it was directed against the freedom of their choice. It was less than half a century after the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, and before NAPOLEON BONAPARTE came down upon Italy, that many reforms had been introduced among the people. JOSEPH II, the liberal Emperor of Austria, whose first act was an act of toleration, abolished feudalism, serfdom, and other abuses, throughout his dominions; and his possessions in Italy were relieved from the oppressions of the clergy in a great degree. At the same time, the good influence of Austria aided, (instead of violently opposing as later emperors and the counsel of the great diplomatist of absolutism who has since done) the mitigation of ecclesiastical despotism under the administration of several Popes in succession; and her good influence was then manifest even in the way of reform in the Roman States. After the date of 1792, the BONAPARTE of that day established a republic in Lombardy, adding to it a portion of the papal territory. Genoa by the same means was formed into the Lygurian republic. Venice also, in like manner became a republic, and so remained till it was transferred to Austria by the treaty of Campo Formio. Even Naples, the Eden of Europe, was changed into what was called the Parthenopean republic, in 1799, and so continued till FERDINAND IV. was restored—when many patriots of distinction with many others of less note, in violation of the terms of capitulation, were all treacherously as well as tyrannically executed.

But such are generally the concomitants of violent political attempts, whether successful or not; and sometimes more lives are lost in this manner than in any other. The French revolution, in one way or another, on account of foreign interference. Fated to follow in the wake of France, in 1806, or shortly after when France had become a monarchy, corresponding changes were made in Italy, and republics became kingdoms, vicerealties or provinces. And the same BONAPARTE, the republican, was crowned at Milan by the Pope, as King of Italy. But after his unfortunate campaign against Russia, the States of Italy generally were made subject to their former governments, which were held in 1815.—By their authority Genoa was annexed to Piedmont, and Venice remained subject to Austria. But that Congress was too ultra in absolutism for their own purposes. Austria must be admitted into Italy as her interest required her to be according to the policy of the Cabinet of Vienna. But Austrians and Venetians are too unlike ever to amalgamate. And the people were everywhere less contented than before with the restored rulers, who were considered the liege lords of Austria, upon whose cabinet minister the accumulated hatred of all their persecutions might justly fall. In looking for relief, the people of Italy found no hope in anything without a national independence and a national character. But it seems not to have occurred to the so called "Holy Alliance," while it existed, that the will of a whole people should be consulted. The restored rulers came back with their prejudices against reform increased and confirmed. But what cared they for the restoration of national security or individual comfort? They even undid what they had before done in that direction. The French reforms were also repudiated. Jesuits were reinstated; monasteries were re-established; mortal laws, repealed; taxes, augmented; the plague of passports made more annoying; education narrowed; the press, fettered; all liberal minded persons put under strict surveillance; and the ecclesiastics in the papal States again filled all the offices to the exclusion of laymen.

Fleets and armies from abroad and from different powers in Europe have been, since 1848, and at various times, put in requisition to force upon the Italians such rulers as they have rejected; but the idea appears never to have entered the crowned heads of empires under any circumstances, till lately, that the people might justly have a choice of their own which would be best to respect. This is a new phase which must have been lately discovered. If reformation shall really come from the powerful monarchs, there will no longer be any need of what is called revolution, if indeed they begin the reformation in themselves. And the case of Italy, as appealed to a European Congress, may be the first of a series that will inaugurate a new era in Europe. The late political associations in the Duchies and papal States have offered their adhesion to VICTOR EMANUEL, but he is restrained by LOUIS NAPOLEON. And again they offer the regency to Prince CARIGNAN, the cousin of VICTOR EMANUEL, and he is said to be restrained by VICTOR EMANUEL in his turn. But the regency has been accepted on the recommendation of the Prince. If a Congress shall assemble upon this question, it will not be to deliberate and decide, but only for executing an agreement previously arranged between the several powers. It still appears that England, Prussia and Russia, will favor the Italian cause, so far at least as to leave Italy to the disposal of the Italian people.

RESTLESS spirits ought to be guided into some course of action that will at least prove harmless. That social organization which is so planned or so managed, as to draw off the exuberant action from disturbing a well ordered state of common interests, if not the best in itself, is most likely to promote the general security and happiness of the majority. In this point of view, it has no doubt been well that gold has been discovered in California; and that there were some evidences of the precious metal gathered from the region of Pike's Peak.—That so many voyages of exploration have been made about the North Pole; and that the great feat of laying the Atlantic Telegraphic Cable was so happily accomplished. That the Great Eastern, for rolling over to America, was launched so auspiciously; and that the Great Balloon is all ready for flying over to Europe, as soon as the aeronauts shall be equally ready to take their departure from the earth to travel in the air over the ocean.

But seriously there are other fields of enterprise where the passion for such renown may be gratified and relief at the same time be given to suffering millions. It has been the misfortune of the South American Republics, and of the North American also which are situated south of our own highly favored confederated nation republic, to have been long tortured with dissension and broils, while under the influence of the combined action of military and ecclesiastical domination. Now the neighboring republic of Mexico is undergoing the severest trials of what may prove to be a transformation into a better state of liberty and equality. President JUAREZ is at the head of the liberal and constitutional government, which controls about three-fourths of the entire republic, being supported by the common people and opposed by the clergy and their military allies. Here is an opening for the employment of military chiefs from this country, who might after some discipline lead the Mexicans in general as good enough soldiers to battle triumphantly for their rights. There appears to be a surplus of military power in this country, and sufficient reason and reason for its exercise in that country. The neutrality laws do not prevent the private citizen, qualified for such duties, from entering the service of the regular government of Mexico, with which we are at peace, and thereby strengthening the security of property there against the rapacity of its piratical enemies.

With all the precautions of the statute against military expeditions fitted out to act against governments with which the United States are at peace, there is no law and we believe no international rule to prohibit needful assistance from being given to any nation in maintaining the authority of their constitutional organizations. The present situation of Mexico makes an appeal to this country that will be heard, if not heeded, in our national legislature. When the "enemies of the human race" are plundering by millions, and the property of no nation is spared in its transit through a neighboring jurisdiction, unable through all the means at its command to suppress the offenders, why should the powers that are given for the defense of right, and the repression of wrong, be withheld from the field where, more than any other, the interests of humanity and the peace of good neighborhood demand that they should be vindicated in the most effectual manner? It is a matter of astonishment as well as of regret, that the field for the exercise of a virtuous indignation should so long have been overlooked and so greatly neglected.

THE admirers of his interesting works will learn, with a solemn tenderness, the sudden decease of WASHINGTON IRVING, at his late residence, "Sunnyside," on the Hudson, at about 10 o'clock last Monday evening. He was in his seventy-seventh year. About a year ago, he completed his last work, "The Life of Washington." It was fitting that he should leave a record of the life of the "Father of his country" in the "Father of American literature." After the great popularity of his productions and the consequent immense sales of his works, it could no longer be tauntingly asked by the aristocratic pride of a foreign literary nobility, "who reads an American book?" It is a consoling as well as an encouraging reflection, on many accounts, that this genial author of unsurpassed attraction in his department of letters, has been so justly and so extensively appreciated. The Boston Post, in a recent article on the sale of books, says, that Mr. IRVING has received as a reward for his brain-work, the snug little sum of \$75,000 in the past ten years.

REAL ESTATE SALES.—Edward King, Esq., has purchased the estate on Washington street belonging to Mr. William F. Smith and his sister, Mrs. William S. Clarke, of Providence, for \$4,000. The lot is 50 feet front and 235 deep, and adjoins the two estates purchased a few weeks since by the same gentleman, who has now a front of 150 feet on the water and the same on Washington street.

The Park House, fronting the State House, and the house in the rear fronting Tour de St. Louis, belonging to the estate of the late Levi Gage, Esq., was purchased on Wednesday by Hon. Henry V. Cranston—the former for \$27,000 and the latter for \$14,000.

Mr. John D. Braham has purchased the estate on Poplar street late belonging to Mr. Josiah Albro for \$102,000. The lot contains 6720 feet of land.

The Sandy Point Farm, near the Glen, belonging to the heirs of WILLIAM BATEMAN, deceased, has been sold to Mr. JOSEPH DENNIS, for \$14,100. The farm contains 193 3/4 acres and 11 rods.

SINCE the last meeting of the City Council certain persons in this community have busied themselves by reporting that Mayor CRANSTON was opposed to the building of the projected railroad, which is utterly false. He is strongly in favor of it, and since that meeting has exerted himself to show to the tax-payers what they were to vote for on Monday, and anything which he can do to help the matter along in an official or private way, will be done most cordially.

OUR Middletown friends are having a course of lectures, the first of which was delivered on Tuesday last by GEORGE C. MASON, Esq., and will be continued on Tuesday evening next at the school house No. 1, near the Holy Cross Chapel, by WILLIAM P. SHEPHERD, Esq., on the subject of religious liberty.

THE Panorama of the Burning of Moscow will commence exhibiting this evening at Aquidneck Hall, and, as on previous occasions, our citizens will be pleased to witness a panorama which is designed both for instruction and amusement.

THE American Republican and Republican State Committee held conventions in Providence on Monday last, and formed a union of the two parties. A State Convention is called to be held at Providence on the 4th day of January.

Brevet-Major H. J. HUNT, Captain Second Artillery, has been ordered to repair to Fort Monroe, Va., and report for duty to the President of the Board of Officers, now in session at that post, testing rifle cannon.

ON Monday next our citizens will have the opportunity of demonstrating, by their votes, whether they desire to see Newport connected by railroad with the country East and North of us, or whether they prefer to remain isolated, as it were, from the busy world, and shut up within our limited sphere to plod on in the old fog (we had almost said aboriginal) style, contented with things as they are, without the disposition to make even one small effort to improve our condition. We trust the response will be such as will clearly demonstrate that we are all willing to contribute our votes and a portion of our means, if necessary, towards the accomplishment of an object which cannot fail to be a permanent foundation for benefits destined to extend and increase with coming years, until so favorable a field for the exercise of enterprise and industry will be fully occupied.

On that day we are to answer the question whether we will petition the General Assembly to make it lawful to institute the preliminary proceedings in the matter, and when again the subject is presented for our consideration in a more impressive form, we hope the question of cost may be so small (when the benefits are contrasted with the same) as to meet the hearty approval of every inhabitant of the Island of Rhode Island. We anticipate almost a unanimous yea to the question to be answered on Monday, as the following communication from Mayor CRANSTON and the members of the Common Council, must be sufficient to convince the most skeptical that before any money shall be appropriated to secure the right of way, the tax-payers will have an opportunity to give their vote upon the subject, and by the result of that vote the subject will be decided.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, Newport, Nov. 29, 1859.
Mr. Editor—I am informed that many are under the impression that if they vote, on the 5th of next month, to authorize the City Council to petition the General Assembly for authority to purchase a right of way for a railroad from this city to Fall River, and the General Assembly to pass an act to that effect, they will proceed to purchase a right of way, &c., without any further action on the part of the tax-payers. Such was not my understanding at the time of the passage of the Resolution on the 23d inst. As far as I am conversed with the members of the Council, the understanding was that if the authority was granted to the Council by the General Assembly, before the Council would make any contract or expend any money, in the construction of the railroad, said contract proposed, the Council would first be required to submit the matter to the tax-payers for their ratification or rejection. In a matter of this importance, as far as I am officially concerned, I should be unwilling to act in the matter without the acquiescence of at least a majority of the tax-payers being first obtained.

WILLIAM H. CRANSTON, Mayor.
We fully concur with Mayor Cranston in his views as above stated.
James G. Albro, Alderman 1st Ward.
John C. Powell, " 2d "
John C. Aliman, " 3d "
William C. Townsend, " 4th "
Stephen S. Albro, " 5th "
John C. Stoddard, Councilman 1st Ward.
George A. Simmons, " 2d "
Thos. Coggeshall, " 3d "
John T. Bush, " 4th "
Robert J. Taylor, " 5th "
Philip Simmons, " 6th "
C. W. Underwood, " 7th "
N. M. Chaffee, " 8th "
W. H. Burdick, " 9th "
Wm. S. Cranston, Jr., " 10th "

MANY of our readers are probably aware that Messrs. KIRBY & BIRCH, of the Clarendon Hotel, New York,—the gentlemen who during the last fashionable season so ably conducted the Ocean House,—have renewed their lease.—We learn from Capt. May, Agent of the Ocean House Company, that the lease is for two years, at \$5000 per annum, and that great improvements are to be made about the premises, such as will make it one of the best appointed hotels in the country. For several weeks Messrs. CRANSTON & BURDICK have been constructing a new building on the site of the old one, and it will provide a means of removing what has heretofore been a great inconvenience, and one cause of much complaint from the guests of the house. Messrs. K. & B. "know how to keep a hotel," and know that what they resort here during the summer months for the purpose of breathing pure air, and to have anything on their premises which should detract from their enjoyment of the same was contrary to their wishes, consequently they have had this sewer constructed, which will entirely obviate the difficulty. The piazzas on the South, East and West sides are to be new, and the piazzas at the second story is to be removed. The former will insure safety, while the latter will afford privileges not heretofore enjoyed by the occupants of the rooms on the second floor. On the common in front of the house a building, in octagon style, will be erected for the band, which, besides the opera music, will be increased to a full military band under the direction of Mr. HELMSMULLER, who is a great favorite with all who usually pass their summers here. In the rear of the house, which is now but an esplanade, there will be made a beautiful flower garden, in the centre of which will be erected a large summer house, making a delightful spot for the convocation of the lady guests. In the ladies-parlor, dining-room and hall, a large number of gas-burners will be added at a cost of between \$400 and \$500. The expense of all these improvements are estimated at about \$5000, and about \$2000 more will be expended in new furniture, paint, &c.

These improvements will make the Ocean as near complete as possible, far surpassing any summer hotel in the country. The proprietors stand at the head of their vocation, directing personally all the various duties which are necessary for the comfort of their guests. As during the past season, JOHN G. WEAVER, Esq., the former proprietor, will render his assistance in the office, accompanied by Mr. BLAKE, book-keeper of the Clarendon, who by his affable manners has won hosts of friends.

On the departure of Col. MAGRUDER's battery from Fort Adams a short time since, we referred to the guns which were left behind, once belonging to Major SHERMAN's battery, but such was not the case, as we learn from the gallant Major himself. The battery which Major SHERMAN had at this post was given to his charge in 1845, and kept by him for twelve years. During the Mexican War from the Rio Grande to Monterey, and at the Battle of Buena Vista, where this command so gallantly distinguished itself, they were used. The battery followed the Company from the Rio Grande to Fort Adams, and in 1853 was taken with it to Minnesota, where it was used until 1867. It being then deemed unserviceable it was sent to St. Louis in exchange for another, and there remains as a relic of the past.

THE Engineers to survey the proposed route for the railroad, Mr. WALTER M. WILSON and Mr. WALTER M. WILSON, Jr., with six assistants, commenced the survey yesterday. Two surveys will be made, one on the West side and the other through the centre of the island, to ascertain the shortest route and that which shall involve the least expense for land damages.

Brevet Lieutenant Col. J. B. MAGRUDER, Captain First Artillery, has been assigned to duty at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, his battery having arrived at that post on the 14th ultimo.

ON Thursday evening there was another brilliant gathering at the Redwood Library, which building was crowded to its utmost capacity, to listen to the "Silver Lining," a lecture poem by GEORGE W. PETERS, Esq., of Boston. Mr. PETERS is a Rhode Island boy, claiming Providence as the place of his birth, and it is his attachment to his native State and all her institutions that prompted him to give a Newport audience an opportunity of listening to his popular lecture referred to above. The poem was beautifully written and most gracefully delivered. It abounds in fine points, and it would be almost impossible to say where it sparkled most, but we venture to say that the finest passages were in the descriptions of the seasons.—In closing he alluded to Rhode Island and the attachment of her children to her soil, to his own position before the audience—a stranger but not an alien—to Rhode Island's worthy heroes, their history, and ARNOLD's heroic—all woven together in lines of beauty that elicited the warmest admiration of all who were so fortunate as to find a place in the house.—The Committee have been indeed fortunate thus far in catering for our entertainment, and we doubt not they will continue to do all in their power so long as the public show the same appreciation of their efforts.

On Thursday evening next there will be a lecture at the same time and place.
A REPORT has been published in many papers to the effect that the Mount Vernon Association is not likely to obtain a clear title to the estate, but such is not the case as we learn from good authority. It is not denied but Mr. WASHINGTON is in trouble, as he allowed his notes to go to protest in Chicago; but he claims that some Chicago land-operators tried to swindle him, and that he refused to pay certain notes which he had given, in order to test his legal liability. The contract, and all the arrangements between the ladies of the Mount Vernon Association and Mr. WASHINGTON, were made on the basis of a failure of the latter to pay his debts, and the failure of any judgments that may result therefrom in any way affect the title to the Mount Vernon estate. The amount of subscriptions received by the Association is nearly sufficient to complete the purchase, but before the time shall elapse according to agreement, for the final payment, it is hoped that the fund will be large enough to put the estate in complete repair.—The following from an exchange indicates that there is some feeling of sympathy for the Association, on the part of the proprietor, notwithstanding his singular proceedings heretofore.

Mr. John A. Washington has sent to Mr. Geo. W. Riggs, the Treasurer of the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association, an order for \$128.25 as his contribution to the Mount Vernon Fund, for the purchase of the Mount Vernon steamboat trips for the past year, which though payable to Mr. W., he has caused to be made over to the Association.
THE Newport Artillery have decided to spend an hour on Wednesday evening of each week after their drill, in listening to the reading of the old records of the Company. The idea is a good one, and we hope an interest will be shown by the members to learn the history of so ancient a corps by their punctual attendance on each evening.

WE learn that at the request of many of his parishioners, the Rev. WM. COLVIN BROWN, Rector of Zion Church, will repeat the sermon which he delivered on Thanksgiving Day, tomorrow evening at 7 o'clock.
WE are requested to state that the members of the Dorcas Society are invited to attend their Annual Meeting at the house of Mrs. BORTON, Wednesday afternoon next, at 2 o'clock.

MR. MATTHEW M. TRUNDY, of this city, has been appointed by Collector CHASE to the vacant keepership of Dutch Island Light.

papers of the relations of England and France, had produced an unfavorable feeling. The French Government had determined to protect the privileges of the Suez Canal Company; the work on the canal continues, notwithstanding the Suez prohibition. A merchant house at Toulouse had failed, with liabilities amounting to \$8,000,000. Prince Carignan had declined the proffered regency of Central Italy, "for weighty reasons of political propriety." The Chevalier Buoncompagni had accepted the office. Spain was making active preparations for the Suez prohibition. The Austro-German Government is engaged in devising some means to meet the deficit in the budget. The German Federal Diet was discussing the subject of the Hesse-Cassel Constitution. Prussia takes a liberal and popular course of action on the question. Ratifications of the treaties between Prussia and Austria were to be exchanged at Zurich on the 21st ult. The attitude of France towards Austria was daily becoming more warlike. The European Congress is to meet in Paris, but the date has not yet been fixed.

By the latest accounts from Virginia very extensive preparations were being made for the execution of John Brown, which was to take place yesterday. A large force of Virginia militia and United States troops has been sent to Charlottesville, sufficient to repel all attempts at rescue. Gov. Wise and Gen. Taliaferro have issued proclamations, warning people to stay at home and attend to their own affairs. Even reporters for the press are turned back, and refused permission to be present on the occasion. Gov. Wise has written a letter to Mrs. Brown, in reply to one from her begging for her husband's remains, assuring her that they shall be placed at her disposal. An order was enclosed for a safe conduct for her messenger to Charlottesville, and that the remains, unutilized, should be decently committed to his care.

THE Great Eastern has been safely anchored at Southampton, where she is to winter, and while the ship is in that harbor, the number of hands on board will be reduced to 100. Her full complement is 450, but only 373 have thus far been employed. It is stated that £15,000 have been realized by the exhibition of the Great Eastern at Holyhead. Since the vessel was launched up to the present, £120,000 has been netted by her exhibition.

THE failure of Messrs. Smith, Eddy & Co., and connected with them that of Wm. L. Baker, Esq., the former having jewelry manufactures in Warren, R. I., is reported to involve an amount of \$250,000. This firm have had branch houses in Boston and New York, and have ever maintained a high character for responsibility.

FAMILY REUNION.—A reunion of the Church family occurred in Boston, on Thanksgiving day. Among those present were Col. Nathaniel Church of Little Compton, and his brother John Church. They are lineal descendants of Benjamin Church who was a celebrated captain in the days of King Philip of Mount Hope.

THE Rhode Island Superior Court, on Friday gave a verdict of \$4000 to Ethan B. Arnold and wife against Arnold Brown of Johnston, for words spoken by the latter slandering and defaming the good name of Mrs. Arnold. The jury returned a verdict for the full amount claimed by the plaintiffs.

MEETING OF CONGRESS.—The members of Congress are on their way towards Washington, where the sessions of Congress will be opened on Monday next. Parties are so equally divided in the body that much interest is felt as to the political character of the preliminary organization.

At the city election of New York next Tuesday, one hundred and sixty-eight offices are to be filled. For the office of Mayor alone there are now in the field five candidates, and these have received the nomination from no less than eight different parties.

DEATH OF WASHINGTON IRVING.—Another great grief has fallen upon our country in the loss of another of her great men. WASHINGTON IRVING died Monday night at Irvington, N. Y. Standing as he did at the very head of all the American writers, his death takes from our country a pen which had no equal in its peculiar sphere. Americans may challenge the world, at least in this age, to produce his superior in a specialty which must ever hold an important rank in letters.

Mr. Irving was born of Scotch parents in New York city, April 3, 1783. His elder brother was a literary man, and his youth and genius in some degree. He spent the interval between his twentieth and twenty-third year in an European journey for his health, and made the most of his literary opportunities. "Salmagundi," in which Kirkcuff and his associates were introduced, attracted great attention by its novelty of style, and his other literary effusions were also popular. But the publication of "The History of New York," by Diedrich Knickerbocker, suddenly advanced him to a very high position as an author. It stands to this day an unrivaled work of fiction.

He did not at first adopt literature as a profession, but entered on the study of law, which he soon abandoned, and became a partner with his brothers in the mercantile business established by their father. Ample wealth, joined to his literary tastes, rendered his literary pursuits almost nominal. He was appointed Collector of the Port of New York, Tompkins, in the second year with England, at the close of which he went to Liverpool to conduct a branch of his firm's business. Disaster prostrated it, and he resumed his pen in good earnest.

"The Sketch Book" was the first fruit of his new labors, and its first part appeared in 1819. In a later edition of it, he relates how he was indebted to Sir Walter Scott for inducing the English publisher to take the risk of the original publication. Irving declined a very alluring place as editor, obtained for him by his great friend of Alton, and was unwilling to undertake a task requiring regular habits of mind, his own genius being too desultory to be at his command.

We need not say that "Rip Van Winkle" obtained a popularity for its author which has never diminished. "Bracebridge Hall," "The Two Admirals," "The Conquest of Canada," and "The Alhambra," all added to his fame, as did several other works and literary articles, which we have not space to mention. His "Life of George Washington" is a noble contribution to American history.

During his seventeen years' absence from the United States he was distinguished in other capacities than as a writer. In 1829 he was made Secretary of Legation at London, and in 1841 was appointed Minister to Spain. He retired to the pleasant haunts of the Hudson, where the respect and love of his countrymen have constantly attended him. In purity of style and felicity of expression, even more than in richness of conception, his productions must long remain peerless among American classics.

FROM CALIFORNIA.—Overland dates are to the 4th ult. The shipments by next day's steamer would not be heavy. Business dull, money in demand, prices unchanged, and the rainy season fairly commenced. San Francisco is more prosperous than at any time since 1853. Gold exports amounted to \$1,340,000 in October. Shipment in October, \$1,620,000. New gold and silver discoveries in Washio Valley were being constantly made, and the Comstock vein is probably the richest silver mine in the world. A large amount from the Valley was assayed as work of \$2000. The gold and silver shipments arrived at San Francisco from Panama and the North the last three days. One hundred and sixty-five miles of telegraph were finished on the Butterfield route. Judge Terry has been indicted and held to \$10,000 bail for shooting Senator Broderick. The police administrator of the city of New York, brought by one Brown, claiming to be a cousin of Mr. Broderick, the case of Col. Fremont vs. the Merced Mining Co., involving an immense amount, was being argued in the Supreme Court, and will doubtless be carried to the U. S. Supreme Court. C. A. Garrison's reported sale of his estate seemed to have been so injurious to the cause of the anti-slavery competition. The Carson Valley Grand Jury's report is strongly against the Mormon outrages on emigrants, says that Americans can not live with them in harmony, and calls for

COOK'S CONFESSION.—The confession of John E. Cook, one of Brown's accomplices, has been published. It does not implicate any persons whose names have not already been mentioned. The confession of John E. Cook, one of Brown's accomplices, has been published. It does not implicate any persons whose names have not already been mentioned. The confession of John E. Cook, one of Brown's accomplices, has been published. It does not implicate any persons whose names have not already been mentioned.

Whether you have to ventilate a large room or a House of Parliament, the way is to open a window.—The city of New York is in the same latitude as Naples, in the south of Italy.—The cupola on the New City Hall, which was burnt at the great celebration, is just being rebuilt.—Professor Whitney, of Yale college, is engaged in the translation of that classic of the world's work on astronomy. There were 366 locomotives employed in the working of 1,773 miles of railroad in Canada on the first of January last. Of this number of engines, 209 had been built in the United States, and 157 in England.—In Messrs. Cail's locomotive factory at Paris, in which are about 1,200 workmen, 82 draughtsmen are constantly employed.—There are carp in the lakes of Fontainebleau, which, from certain points, are believed to ascend and descend the steep sides of the mountain, and are occasionally made of glass, and one 14 inches high and 13 inches in diameter has recently been placed in the turret of a chapel at Bordeauville, England.—Most of the German and Prussian railroads, which have been built in the last few years, have single lines only.—A salt company is boring an artesian well at Grand Rapids, Mich. The Eagle says the deeper they go the stronger is the brine they get. They have reached a depth of 260 feet, and the water that boils up is said to be as pure as that of the ocean, and looked, when running into and mingling with fresh water, like milk.—The tunnel on the Covington and Ohio Railroad, in Virginia, is 4,700 feet long, and 700 feet below the surface of the earth. It is 300 feet longer than the Blue Ridge tunnel. The width is 27 feet, to accommodate a double track, and the height is 23 feet.—Mr. Mudie, of London, is the proprietor of the largest circulating library extant owned by one person. Since its opening, in 1825, it has increased to 120,000 volumes, and it is now valued at £25,000. The list of these works indicates, to some extent, the relative circulation of different classes of literature in England. The books are thus classified: "history and biography, 56,475; natural and moral sciences, 25,552; fiction, 87,780; miscellaneous, including works of science and religion, and the principal writers, 45,250. Total, 215,054. The present rate of increase of Mr. Mudie's library exceeds 120,000 volumes per annum.

SARAPARILLA.—This tropical root has a reputation wide as the world, for curing one class of the disorders that afflict mankind—a reputation too high, it is said, as the best antidote we possess for the most violent fevers. It is a vegetable of the tropics, its virtues must be concentrated and combined with other medicines that increase its power. Some reliable compound of this character is much needed in the community. Read the advertisement of Dr. J. C. Ayer, in our columns, and we know it needs no recommendation from us to give our citizens confidence in what he offers.—Organ, Syracuse, N. Y.

MR. GEORGE H. HOYT, who acted as counsel of John Brown, arrived in Boston on Saturday. He had just returned from Ohio, where he has been seeking evidence of the insanity of Brown. We learn from him that he obtained eight affidavits from persons of good character and standing the reliability of whose statements are vouched for by the public officials, which establish the fact that John Brown's grandmother, his only sister, two aunts, two uncles, five cousins, one niece, and two of his sons, John Brown, Jr., and Frederick Brown, have all been afflicted with insanity. The affidavits also affirm that since the death of Brown's first wife, a number of years ago, he, at times, has exhibited signs of insanity, and instances are given of his monomania in regard to slavery.—Boston Courier.

DEATH FROM SWALLOWING A MATCH.—A lad named McDonald, belonging to the crew of the "Christie Cannon," of Gloucester, died in the Bay a few days ago, the Boston Courier says, from the effects of swallowing the remains of a friction match. While he was picking his teeth with the fragment one of the crew touched him, giving him a start, and he swallowed it. He was nearly choked before the start was made, and after some time, when an emetic was administered, and every effort was made to remove it from his stomach, which was accomplished after two days' trial. After the lapse of eleven days he died.

THE report of the death of Kit Carson is contradicted.

INTERESTING VARIETIES.—The Paris correspondent of the London Morning Herald says that experiments at Toulon have shown that the French metallic plates for coating the sides of vessels of war have been found to be perfectly shot-proof, though the four-inch iron plates used in England were broken up by the elongated shot now in use. The French plates are made of iron, steel, and some other metal, but what other the correspondent could not ascertain.—At the time of opening the Cooper Institute, in N. York, 1,200 persons had applied for tickets to the several French classes.—The oldest church in America was built in the town of Hingham, Mass., in the year 1781, and is still used as a place of worship. The bell rope hangs down in the middle of the house, and it was placed in order that the bell might be rung instantly to give alarm in case of fire, and incense. There are many of the old fashioned square pews in the house, enclosed by what resembles more a high unpainted fence than anything else, and the beams are huge and numerous. The old house is good for two hundred years more. This old church has an old pastor, the Rev. Joseph Richardson, who has preached in it for fifty-three years. The rectory of the church is a Manchester Mirror says that a few days since a needle was taken from the outer and lower side of the foot, near the little toe joint, of Mrs. Ira Atwood, of North Sandwich, N. H., which she swallowed six years since. The needle was of steel, a little over an inch long, and it was whole and quite rusty. The lady was alarmed at the time she swallowed the needle, but she had felt no inconvenience from it, and had forgotten the fact until she was asked to give an account of it, when the needle was discovered.—A hundred and seventy-three railway trains leave the city of London, England, every Sunday, to carry excursionists various distances into the country.—Numerous facts indicate that the State of New Jersey is settling down beneath the sea at the rate of about a foot in 100 years. It is ascertained that the fixed stars, as they have been called, are all in motion, but their distances from us are so great that very delicate observations are required to discover their motions.—A man named Daniel Sanford stole a pair of oxen near Detroit a few weeks since, and in fourteen hours from the commission of the deed, he was arrested, tried, convicted, and on his way to the State Prison, under a sentence of three years.—The world could not hold along with North Carolina. Horvath, pitch, and turpentine are used in every corner of the globe. The amount shipped to England in the year 1851, was £75,870, and £22,132 in the year 1852. The amount shipped to the West Indies, Africa, and India, which belonged to Gen. Espinasse, who fell at Magenta, still lurks about the spot where he shed his blood, and although often taken away, it is constantly returning.

The Chiriqui gold diggings are played out. The graves have been exhausted and the value of the gold obtained will only amount to \$100,000. There is no digging going on now.—There was lately a horse stolen from a stable, weighing 24 ounces and worth about \$500. They were made for a favorite pony in New South Wales—Gold is 19-13 times heavier than water, and melts at a lower temperature than silver. Hammered so thin as to require two hundred thousand leaves to make an inch in thickness—Two sheet iron cars are in course of construction at the machine shop of the Illinois Central Railroad, for the purpose of carrying powder, and are of iron, and are so constructed that they will not burn or explode. The necessary moorings for the Great Eastern, in Southampton waters, will consist of two anchors, of about 90 cwt. each, and of about 200 fathoms of the heaviest mooring chain, with a 22 cwt. swivel.—The monument inaugurated to the Emperor Nicholas, in July, cost \$300,000.—The most singular spot in the world is that of the Count de Montcalm, at the battle of the Clouds of Treviso. The spit turns 130 roasts at once, and plays 24 tunes, and whatever it plays, corresponds to a certain degree of cooking, which is perfectly understood by the cook. Thus, a leg of mutton a la Anglaise will be excellent at the eighteenth air, and so on.—The government of Great Britain has purchased the patent right for perforating postage stamps of Mr. Archer, the inventor, for \$50,000. The surface of the stamp is 1,317 feet, and the diameter of the hole is 1/16 of an inch.—Elevating a barometer 85 to 90 feet in the air causes the mercury to fall one tenth of an inch.—Cast iron girders have been used in England 80 feet in a single span.—The qualities of certain iron are so superior to those of others, that at Widdow, in England, the Messrs. Tattersall were compelled to discontinue the use of well-water for their racing stock and brood mares.—An explosion of a large quantity of gunpowder at Hounslow, England, produced a very singular result. A hoop of iron, of a distance of 60 miles—the number of hoop skirts made in Derby since April 1st, is said to be 350,000, consuming at least 9,100,000 yards of tape, and 455 tons of steel.—An English architect (Mr. Tito) says:

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